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5 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
6 DISTRICT OF NEVADA  
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8 ELIA GARCIA,  
9 Plaintiff(s),

10 v.

11 LINCOLN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY  
12 OF BOSTON,  
Defendant(s).

Case No. 2:21-cv-00438-RFB-NJK

**Order**

13 Pending before the Court is a Stipulated Protective Order, which the Court approved to  
14 facilitate discovery in this case. This order reminds counsel that there is a presumption of public  
15 access to judicial files and records. A party seeking to file a confidential document under seal  
16 must file a motion to seal and must comply with the Ninth Circuit's directives in *Kamakana v. City*  
17 *and County of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172 (9th Cir. 2006).

18 The Court has adopted electronic filing procedures. Attorneys must file documents under  
19 seal using the Court's electronic filing procedures. *See* Local Rule IA 10-5. Papers filed with the  
20 Court under seal must be accompanied with a concurrently-filed motion for leave to file those  
21 documents under seal. *See* Local Rule IA 10-5(a).

22 The Court has approved the blanket protective order to facilitate discovery exchanges. But  
23 **there has been no showing, and the Court has not found, that any specific documents are**  
24 **secret or confidential**. The parties have not provided specific facts supported by declarations or  
25 concrete examples to establish that a protective order is required to protect any specific trade secret  
26 or other confidential information pursuant to Rule 26(c) or that disclosure would cause an  
27 identifiable and significant harm. The Ninth Circuit has held that there is a presumption of public  
28 access to judicial files and records, and that parties seeking to maintain the confidentiality of

1 documents attached to nondispositive motions must show good cause exists to overcome the  
2 presumption of public access. *See Kamakana* 447 F.3d at 1179. Parties seeking to maintain the  
3 secrecy of documents attached to dispositive motions must show compelling reasons sufficient to  
4 overcome the presumption of public access. *Id.* at 1180. **All motions to seal must address the**  
5 **applicable standard and explain why that standard has been met.** The fact that a court has  
6 entered a blanket stipulated protective order and that a party has designated a document as  
7 confidential pursuant to that protective order does not, standing alone, establish sufficient grounds  
8 to seal a filed document. *See Foltz v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co.*, 331 F.3d 1122, 1133 (9th  
9 Cir. 2003); *see also Beckman Indus., Inc. v. Int'l Ins. Co.*, 966 F.2d 470, 476 (9th Cir. 1992).

10 If the sole ground for a motion to seal is that the opposing party (or non-party) has  
11 designated a document as confidential, the designator shall file (within seven days of the filing of  
12 the motion to seal) either (1) a declaration establishing sufficient justification for sealing each  
13 document at issue or (2) a notice of withdrawal of the designation(s) and consent to unsealing. If  
14 neither filing is made, the Court may order the document(s) unsealed without further notice.

15 **IT IS ORDERED** that counsel shall comply with the requirements of Local Rule IA 10-  
16 5, the Ninth Circuit's decision in *Kamakana*, 447 F.3d 1172, and the procedures outlined above,  
17 with respect to any documents filed under seal. To the extent any aspect of the stipulated protective  
18 order may conflict with this order or Local Rule IA 10-5, that aspect of the stipulated protective  
19 order is hereby superseded with this order.

20 IT IS SO ORDERED.

21 Dated: October 14, 2021

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24 Nancy J. Koppe  
25 United States Magistrate Judge  
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